

5000 West



Dietitian Judy A. Chattin
1980

A Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center publication, 5000 West National Avenue, Milwaukee, WI

Vol. 13, No. 1

Wednesday, February 4, 2004

New beginnings



Retiring chief dietitian Judy Chattin and food production manager Larry Schaff talk over equipment updates.

Judy has moved on

Judy Chattin has moved on and is seeing the light. After being in a variety of roles on the ladder to the program manager of nutrition and food service, Judy has retired. In those 34-plus-years, she can only remember a time in the early 70's when she could check the weather through her window. Her office has almost always been windowless. Her last stop was the basement bathed by fluorescent tubes.

As I visited with Judy on one of her last days, she was in the final stages of moving. Her many awards and plaques of achievement were not on the walls and tags were neatly placed on the files. "I want the next person to be able to find everything." It is part of her "mission organization" drive that will continue into her home setting.

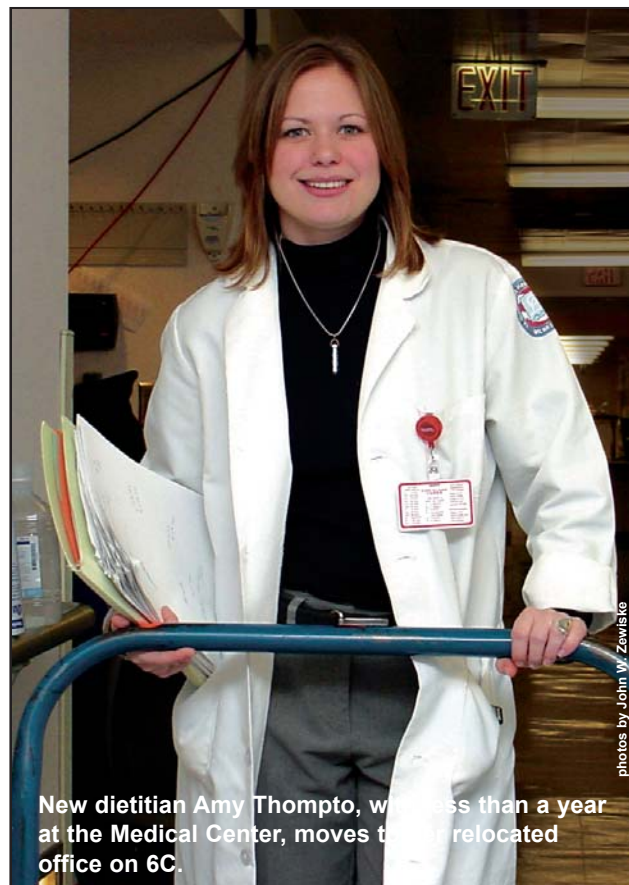
A flag waver for customer service, Judy would tell her new employees, "You may be the best thing that happens to a patient." She enjoyed her career and was a fine example of professionalism. She professed, "I never had a boring day at work."

Judy graduated from Mercy High School in 1963 and then went to Chicago to become a teacher. Later she changed her major to food service. Her interest began as a child working at church fish fries. She returned to Milwaukee and graduated from Cardinal Stritch in 1970 and soon became a registered dietitian working for the VA.

Judy said her future includes spending more time with her parents and Dave, her husband, who retired last year. She recites many different activities she is planning which includes the Pierogi Festival, Polanki (Polish Women Cultural Group) and staying active in her professional organizations. The list is long.

Her first day of retirement is planned to include a trip to Curves and then a good breakfast. The rest is up for grabs.

Her legacy – integrity followed by organization, planning and attention to detail. There are others. She always liked to be busy. "I've worked with a lot of good people," she said at her retirement reception last week. There was a crowd lined up into the hallway to wish this good dietitian – a mentor to many – a fond farewell and Godspeed. Thank you, Judy.



New dietitian Amy Thompto, who has less than a year at the Medical Center, moves to her relocated office on 6C.

Amy is on the move

When I spoke with Amy Thompto, she was in the middle of moving up to the sixth floor. Her small office had two chairs and they were soon to go. The interview was finished standing. Amy, a registered dietitian, has been at the Medical Center since July working on 4C (now 6C). Born and raised in Milwaukee, she went to school at Ohio State University and is currently in the master's program at Milwaukee's Mount Mary College. Graduation is planned in 2005.

Amy has fun. In high school her thoughts were to be an actress. Her claim to fame as a senior was starring as Audrey in the play Little Shop of Horrors. She liked being on stage, but reality soon set in and it was off to study urban forestry. But just for a while.

"Can I really save the world the way I want to?" she asked herself. Maybe not.

Her interest in nutrition was the solution. She was always reading on the subject and worked in a health food store. She changed her major to nutrition and liked it.

Amy has a cultural streak. The stage is still exciting, and when time permits, community theater remains an option. She is a hip-hop music enthusiast with an extensive CD collection. She also judges debate and forensics at Greendale High School.

Amy enjoys her job and looking ahead includes the public health arena. "I think I can make a bigger impact."

Her future – "assistant secretary for public health or maybe the secretary" she says with a confident smile. But first things first as she pushes her stuff down the hall to the new office. By the way, there is no window.

—john w. zewiske



Health care technician **Terry Rohloff** congratulates **Dorothy Swanigan** at her retirement party after 31 years as a nursing assistant. Her biggest reward, “Just knowing I helped someone.” Mrs. Swanigan’s last assignment was in surgical clinic but helped in virtually every nursing area. She has fond memories of “shining that chrome in the dirty utility room,” and her 30-year pin party. She was so surprised, “I didn’t even have time to comb my hair.” In her first few weeks of retirement, she still gets up at 5 a.m. with an occasional sleep-in to 8.



Mike Risky was at his best at the annual volunteer recognition dinners. He was the point person for 20 of the events while at the Medical Center as chief of voluntary service. In his role, Mr. Risky oversaw the generation of \$5 million in gifts and donations and 1.5 million hours of service by the volunteers. Retiring after almost 34 years of federal service, including two years in the Air Force, he is having no problem with the transition to retirement. He is currently improving his painting and wallpapering skills.

Our 2003 retirees...

1,002 years of service

Retiring is not always the easiest thing to do. It is one of those big decisions in life and often equated to the question, “What do I want to do after high school?” It is a big step to know when. It is also important to know that your Medical Center family will be missing you who no longer walk the hallways or visit in the canteen line. Please return and tell us how it is. And, thank you.

Retiree	Division/Service	Yrs of Service
Lilia S. Abad	Mental Health	23
Sandra C. Alioto	Consultant Care	21
Robert D. Bales	Facilities Management	26
Michael L. Boschaert	Great Lakes Acquisition Center	25
Anne Buettner	Rehab, Ext & Comm Care	17
Hugh L. Davis, MD	Consultant Care	11
Rosemary J. Ehrgott	Rehab, Ext & Comm Care	34
Shirley M. Fields	Rehab, Ext & Comm Care	20
Mary C. Flaherty	Rehab, Ext & Comm Care	33
Carrie L. Gregerson	Medical Information	22
Harold B. Haapala	Spinal Cord Injury	19
Norma Harris	HAIG	30
LC Heidenreich-McGlynn	Primary Care	23
Mary J. Henning	Research	26
Frederick J. Hofmeister	Medical Information	35
Andrea L. Ivy	Rehab, Ext & Comm Care	19
Sandra L. Jahnke	Clinical Support	14
Yvonne M. Jefferson	Consultant Care	35
Barbara L. Jorgensen	Fiscal	23
Janelle A. Kruecke	Rehab, Ext & Comm Care	16
Donald P. Lee	Mental Health	16
James A. Leonard, Jr.	Facilities Management	28
Carl J. Malischke	Human Resources Mgmt	30
Roy Mason	Facilities Management	38
Opal F. Mays	Clinical Support	41
Dorothy McDowell	Veterans Canteen Svc	35
Robert J. Mitchell	Clinical Support	31
Portia L. Moore	Prosthetics	20
James M. Picucci	Human Resources Mgmt	32
Leon Porch	Medical Information	11
Harry Prosen, MD	Mental Health	15
Ronald W. Schanz	Consultant Care	30
Sandra L. Schroeder	Prosthetics	15
Paul G. Stein, MD	Mental Health	20
Mary E. Stewart	Human Resources Mgmt	34
Ruth A. Zander	Chief Of Staff	26

Remembering those who have passed on...

Viveca L. Bowie	Medical Information	31
Christopher A. Dawson, PhD	Research	32
Rose M. Peavey	Medical Information	12
Kristy J. Szentes	Consultant Care	8
Kathalin M. Welter	Spinal Cord Injury	25

January 2004 retirees

Judith A. Chattin	Clinical Support	33
Mary Ann Dawson	Medical Information Services	17
Orthwin E. Gallitz	Canteen	32
Therese M. Gumowski	Consultant Care	26



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Clement J. Zablocki
VA Medical Center,
Milwaukee, WI 53295

The community relations office publishes 5000 West bi-weekly as a channel of communication for employees, volunteers, patients and friends. 5000 West is committed to enhancing the image of the Medical Center and its employees and volunteers through information, recognition and entertainment. Articles of interest are welcome. The editor reserves the right to use and edit contributed articles. Submission deadline is two days prior to publication. Your comments are encouraged and should be directed to editor (00Z) 5000 West, VA Medical Center, Milwaukee, WI 53295; telephone (414) 382-5363 or (888) 469-6614, extension 45363 or john.zewiske@med.va.gov

Glen W. Grippen
Medical Center Director

Editor and photo – John W. Zewiske
Graphic design – Kim Chapman
Copy editor – Linda Kendzierski
Today’s circulation: 1,500